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ABSTRACT

Information concerning the enrollment of black students in graduate and professional educational programs is presented. The data indicate that 1976-1977 was the turning point for black graduate participation in that actual enrollment and proportional representation has receded from those heights in subsequent years. Enrollment trends include the following: black graduate enrollment fell to 60,059 in fall 1980, an 8 percent drop from the peak of 1976-1977, while total graduate enrollment rebounded from a slight 1978 drop and surpassed 1,100,000; the decline in total black graduate enrollment in fall 1980 was precipitated by losses in part-time, rather than full-time students; in 1976-1977 black students made up 6.0 percent of total graduate enrollment, 5.1 percent of full-time graduate enrollment, and 6.6 percent of part-time graduate enrollment, while in fall 1980, these proportions were 5.5 percent, 5.0 percent, and 5.8 percent, respectively; in 1978 there was a 5 percent decline in first-year graduate enrollment and about a 10 percent drop in black first-year graduate students from 1976; one possible cause for the drop in first-year graduate enrollment is evident in a corresponding increase in professional enrollment; despite numerical growth, black first-p ofessional students comprised only 4.6 percent of the 1980 total, compared to 4.5 percent both in 1976 and 1978; black graduate and professional students still rely disproportionately on historically black college (HBC) programs for access to advanced educational opportunity; almost 18 percent of HBC graduate enrollment was white and over 11 percent was international students; fall 1980 data reveal that black graduate students are still minimally represented in sciences and engineering. (SW)

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BLACK HIGHER EDUCATION FACT SHEET

DID YOU KNOW ?

ABOUT BLACK GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL ENROLLMENT

#8 MARCH, 1982

ED218994

The Committee's report, A Losing Battle: The Decline in Black Participation in Graduate and Professional Education, documented the deteriorating situation involving Black students in advanced education. The statistical data presented in the report indicated that 1976-77 stands as the turning point for Black graduate participation in that actual enrollment and proportional representation has receded from those heights in subsequent years. It is apparent that the impetus for increased access and retention in graduate and professional schools had been spent by the mid-70's. The Committee's Fact Sheet #5 updated degree data for 1979 to show that the number of master's, doctorates, and first-professional degrees earned by Blacks exhibited no appreciable growth, and even further reduction in some areas, from previously documented levels.

Data just obtained from the Education Department's Office for Civil Rights reveal that Fall 1980 marked another setback in the quest for equity in graduate education. The number of Black graduate students fell another notch below that of the peak 1976-77 year and now registers only 5.5 percent of all graduate students in the United States. Historically Black colleges (HBC's) continue to account for far more Black graduate and professional students than one would expect from their number. Furthermore, OCR enrollment data for Fall 1978 and Fall 1980 also substantiate recent public concern about the state of imminent crisis in American graduate education. Unfortunately, with the curious decision to alter the 1980 HEGIS survey form to register "first-time" rather than "first-year" graduate students, with no companion provision reflecting the data's historical significance, trends analysis on the flow of new students into the graduate pipeline is no longer possible. However, even in 1978, total first-year graduate enrollment fell by 5 percent and the number of Black first-year graduate students dropped twice as much, almost 10 percent. In 1980, the proportion of Black first-time graduate students was no higher than that of Black graduate students as a whole, surely no sign of progress. As many educational spokespersons have predicted, talented students of all races now opt for professional school or elect to forego further study altogether for lucrative post-baccalaureate career opportunities.

The data for the following findings are provided in the accompanying tables:

- Black graduate enrollment fell to 60,059 in Fall 1980, an 8 percent drop from the peak of 1976-77; total graduate enrollment, however, rebounded from a slight 1978 drop and surpassed 1,100,000;
- the decline in total Black graduate enrollment in Fall 1980 was precipitated by losses in part-time, rather than full-time, students; since 1976, Black part-time graduate enrollment has fallen over 12 percent while full-time enrollment has remained almost stable;
- in 1976-77, Black students made up 6.0 percent of total graduate enrollment, 5.1 percent of full-time graduate enrollment, and 6.6

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(OVER)

The Committee was established in December, 1976, to examine all approaches to the higher education of Black Americans as well as enhancement of the historically Black colleges and universities and then to make recommendations to the Secretary of Education in the identification of several courses of action to raise substantially the participation of Black Americans in all sectors and at all levels of higher education.

NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON
BLACK HIGHER EDUCATION AND
BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

percent of part-time graduate enrollment; in Fall 1980, these proportions were 5.5 percent, 5.0 percent, and 5.8 percent, respectively;

- first-year graduate enrollment for Fall 1978 underscores the crisis facing graduate education; in 1978, there were over 32,000 fewer first-year graduate students, a 5 percent decline, and almost 4,000 fewer Black first-year graduate students than in 1976, about a 10 percent drop;

- despite the change in the HEGIS survey which precludes further study of historical changes in first-year graduate enrollment, the composition of the 1980 entering class is evidence of further erosion in Black access to advanced education: in Fall 1976 and Fall 1978, the proportion of Black students in the total first-year class was higher than that of Blacks in total graduate enrollment; however, in Fall 1980, the proportion of Black students among all first-time graduate students was exactly the same as that for total graduate enrollment;

- one possible cause for the drop in first-year graduate enrollment is evident in the corresponding increase in professional enrollment; total first-professional enrollment surpassed 278,000 in Fall 1980, 13 percent higher than in 1976 and Black first-professional enrollment reached 12,800, a 14.5 percent growth rate;

- despite numerical growth, however, Black first-professional students comprised only 4.6 percent of the 1980 total, compared to 4.5 percent both in 1976 and 1978;

- Black graduate and professional students still rely disproportionately on HBC programs for access to advanced educational opportunity; in 1980, almost 19 percent of all Black graduate students were enrolled in 34 HBC graduate schools and over 22 percent of all Black first-professional students in 11 HBC professional schools;

- Black Americans were not the only students to choose HBC's for graduate and professional education; almost 18 percent of HBC graduate enrollment was white and over 11 percent was international; in fact, almost 32 percent of HBC graduate enrollment and over 22 percent of HBC first-professional enrollment was comprised of students other than the commonly perceived traditional population (Black) at HBC's;

- in the States where the HBC's are located, these institutions accounted for 5 percent of the 335,000 graduate students and over 6 percent of the 60,000 first-professional students;

- in Mississippi, 17 percent of all graduate students, as well as 58 percent of all Black graduate students, attended the 3 HBC's with graduate programs; in Tennessee, over 10 percent of all first-professional students, as well as 68 percent of all Black first-professional students, attended Meharry Medical College; in Washington D.C., almost 13 percent of all graduate and first-professional students combined, as well as 55 percent of Black graduate and first-professional students combined, attended Howard University;

- the pivotal role played by HBC's in Black graduate and professional education is also revealed by proportional representation in non-HBC institutions; in contrast to national totals, Black students made up only 4.5 percent of enrollment in non-HBC graduate programs and 3.6 percent in non-HBC first-professional programs in Fall 1980;

- in States where HBC's are located, the Black proportion of graduate enrollment in all institutions was 8.9 percent, but in non-HBC institutions it was only 5.8 percent; similarly, Black students made up 8.2 percent of all professional enrollment in HBC States, but only 3.6 percent in non-HBC professional schools;

- Fall 1980 data reveal that Black graduate students are still minimally represented in sciences and engineering; while Black students made up 5.5 percent of total graduate enrollment, they comprised 1.6 percent of graduate enrollment in agriculture, 2.9 percent in biological sciences, 1.5 percent in engineering, and 1.9 percent in physical sciences; furthermore, the proportions in all the above fields were even lower for full-time students;

- for comparison only, Black Americans, who made up approximately two-thirds of the total U.S. minority population in 1980, comprised 30 percent of minority graduate enrollment in agriculture, 34 percent in biological sciences, 17 percent in engineering, and 29 percent in physical sciences;

- for comparison only, among full-time graduate students, there were 16 times more non-resident aliens in agriculture than Black Americans, 3½ times more non-resident aliens in biological sciences, 35 times more non-resident aliens in engineering, and 12 times more non-resident aliens in physical sciences in Fall 1980.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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TABLE A. TOTAL AND BLACK GRADUATE AND FIRST PROFESSIONAL ENROLLMENT AND PERCENT CHANGE, BY ENROLLMENT STATUS: FALL 1976 - 78 - 80

Year and Enrollment Status	Total		Black		Percent Black of Total	Percent of Black Enrollment in HBC's	Percent of Black Enrollment in HBC's in HBC States
	Number	Percent Change	Number	Percent Change			
	1	2	3	4	5 = 3/1		
FALL 1976							
		(From 1974)		(From 1974)			
Graduate	1,086,334	1.7	65,371	0.5	6.0	19.4	39.7
Full-Time	431,180	8.2	22,084	*	5.1		
Part-Time	655,154	-2.2	43,287	0.8	6.6		
First Year	649,865	NA	41,498	NA	6.4	19.4	38.2
First - Professional	245,742	8.5	11,181	-5.5	4.5	19.3	61.1
Full-Time	221,405	16.0	10,029	7.4	4.5		
Part-Time	24,337	-31.6	1,152	-53.6	4.7		
FALL 1978							
		(From 1976)		(From 1976)			
Graduate	1,076,980	-0.9	61,923	-5.3	5.7	17.8	36.1
Full-Time	426,492	-1.1	20,989	-5.0	4.9		
Part-Time	650,488	-0.7	40,934	-5.4	6.3		
First Year	617,653	-5.0	37,549	-9.5	6.1	NA	NA
First - Professional	256,591	4.4	11,424	2.2	4.5	22.2	61.3
Full-Time	232,667	5.1	10,260	2.3	4.4		
Part-Time	23,924	-1.7	1,164	1.0	4.9		
FALL 1980							
		(From 1978)		(From 1978)			
Graduate	1,100,621	2.2	60,059	-3.0	5.5	18.8	38.0
Full-Time	444,195	4.2	22,143	5.5	5.0		
Part-Time	656,426	0.9	37,916	-7.4	5.8		
First-Time 1/	425,607	NA	23,339	NA	5.5	NA	NA
First - Professional	278,443	8.5	12,802	12.1	4.6	22.5	58.3
Full-Time	251,893	8.3	11,488	12.0	4.6		
Part-Time	26,550	11.0	1,314	12.9	4.9		

Source - Committee staff analysis, ED/OCR, unpublished data, Fall 1980, and Racial and Ethnic Enrollment Data from Institutions of Higher Education, Fall, 1974; ED/NACBHEBCU, A Losing Battle: The Decline in Black Participation in Graduate and Professional Education, Table 1.

Note - Does not include unclassified students.

1/ - Beginning in Fall 1980, the HEGIS survey form was changed by OCR/NCES to register first-time graduate students, rather than first-year graduate students. Thus, trends analysis is no longer possible.

* - less than .01

TABLE 8. TOTAL AND BLACK GRADUATE AND FIRST - PROFESSIONAL ENROLLMENT BY TYPE OF INSTITUTION, IN STATES WHERE HBC'S ARE LOCATED. FALL 1980

Enrollment Status and State	No. of HBC's	All Institutions			Historically Black Colleges				Black % in Non-HBC's
		Total	Black	Black of Total	Total	Black	HBC % of Total	HBC % of Black	
		1	2	3 = 2/1	4	5	6 = 4/1	7 = 5/2	8
Graduate	34								
Total, U.S.		1,100,621	60,059	5.5	16,542	11,300	1.5	18.8	4.5
HBC States & D.C.		335,735	29,774	8.9	16,542	11,300	4.9	38.0	5.8
Alabama	3	14,285	1,879	13.2	1,379	707	9.7	37.6	9.1
D.C.	1	20,593	2,934	14.2	2,382	1,346	11.6	45.9	8.7
Florida	1	26,415	1,820	6.9	112	81	0.4	4.5	6.6
Georgia	3	22,193	3,071	13.8	1,494	1,339	6.7	43.6	7.6
Kentucky	1	15,215	529	3.5	140	34	0.9	6.4	3.1
Louisiana	3	17,401	2,707	15.6	1,156	1,068	6.6	39.5	10.0
Maryland	4	21,318	2,010	9.4	1,265	645	5.9	32.1	6.8
Mississippi	3	8,236	2,053	24.9	1,389	1,194	16.9	58.2	12.5
North Carolina	3	18,644	1,887	10.1	1,324	885	7.1	46.9	5.8
Pennsylvania	2	55,469	2,291	4.1	405	251	0.7	11.0	3.7
South Carolina	1	9,202	1,069	11.6	510	435	5.5	40.7	7.3
Tennessee	3	14,547	1,242	8.5	790	327	5.4	26.3	6.7
Texas	2	69,808	4,333	6.2	3,172	2,242	4.5	51.7	3.1
Virginia	4	22,409	1,949	8.7	1,024	746	4.6	38.3	5.6
First - Professional	11								
Total, U.S.		278,443	12,802	4.6	3,699	2,883	1.3	22.5	3.6
HBC States & D.C.		60,277	4,942	8.2	3,699	2,883	6.1	58.3	3.6
Alabama	3	3,548	310	8.7	318	225	9.0	72.6	2.6
D.C.	1	9,605	1,653	17.3	1,493	1,157	15.5	69.7	6.2
Florida	1	5,717	168	2.9	16	14	0.3	8.3	2.7
Georgia	2	6,333	481	7.6	328	279	5.2	58.0	3.4
Louisiana	1	4,206	280	6.7	224	157	5.3	56.1	3.1
North Carolina	1	5,571	453	8.1	238	131	4.3	28.9	6.0
Tennessee	1	7,069	942	13.3	736	641	10.4	68.0	4.8
Texas	1	18,228	649	3.6	346	279	1.9	43.0	2.1

Source - Committee staff analysis, ED/OCR, unpublished data, Fall 1980.

Note - Does not include unclassified students.

TABLE C. DISTRIBUTION OF GRADUATE AND FIRST - PROFESSIONAL ENROLLMENT, BY FIELD OF STUDY AND ENROLLMENT STATUS, BY RACIAL/ETHNIC GROUP AND U.S. CITIZENSHIP STATUS: FALL 1980

Field of Study and Enrollment Status	Total	Black		White		Other Minority		Non-Resident Aliens	
		Number	Percent of Total	Number	Percent of Total	Number	Percent of Total	Number	Percent of Total
Graduate, Total	1,100,621	60,059	5.5	897,063	81.5	57,540	5.2	85,959	7.8
Agriculture & Natural Res.	16,516	272	1.6	12,094	73.2	637	3.9	3,513	21.3
Full-Time	11,205	170	1.5	7,934	70.8	423	3.8	2,678	23.9
Part-Time	5,311	102	1.9	4,160	78.3	214	4.0	835	15.7
Architecture & Design	9,479	384	4.1	7,139	75.3	521	5.5	1,435	15.1
Full-Time	7,778	311	4.0	5,830	75.0	413	5.3	1,224	15.7
Part-Time	1,701	73	4.3	1,309	77.0	108	6.3	211	12.4
Biological Sciences	38,810	1,125	2.9	32,319	83.3	2,181	5.6	3,185	8.2
Full-Time	25,053	701	2.8	20,652	82.4	1,256	5.0	2,444	9.8
Part-Time	13,757	424	3.1	11,667	84.8	925	6.7	741	5.4
Business & Management	192,473	7,498	3.9	164,122	85.3	9,150	4.8	11,703	6.1
Full-Time	63,320	2,914	4.6	48,715	76.9	3,191	5.0	8,500	13.4
Part-Time	129,153	4,584	3.5	115,407	89.4	5,959	4.6	3,203	2.5
Engineering	62,009	947	1.5	38,375	61.9	4,754	7.7	17,933	28.9
Full-Time	34,138	406	1.2	17,473	51.2	2,100	6.2	14,159	41.5
Part-Time	27,871	541	1.9	20,902	75.0	2,654	9.5	3,774	13.5
Physical Sciences	35,944	682	1.9	27,331	76.0	1,659	4.6	6,272	17.4
Full-Time	25,543	411	1.6	18,952	74.2	1,100	4.3	5,080	19.9
Part-Time	10,401	271	2.6	8,379	80.6	559	5.4	1,192	11.5
All Others	745,313	49,151	6.6	615,637	82.6	38,635	5.2	41,890	5.6
Full-Time	277,091	17,230	6.2	214,377	77.4	16,226	5.9	29,258	10.6
Part-Time	468,222	31,921	6.8	401,260	85.7	22,409	4.8	12,632	2.7
First-Professional, Total	278,443	12,802	4.6	246,905	88.7	15,834	5.7	2,902	1.0
Dentistry	22,860	1,012	4.4	19,685	86.1	1,876	8.2	287	1.3
Full-Time	22,744	986	4.3	19,598	86.2	1,875	8.2	285	1.3
Part-Time	116	26	22.4	87	75.0	1	0.9	2	1.7
Medicine	71,140	3,900	5.5	61,193	86.0	5,501	7.7	546	0.8
Full-Time	70,574	3,872	5.5	60,707	86.0	5,457	7.7	538	0.8
Part-Time	566	28	4.9	486	85.9	44	7.8	8	1.4
Veterinary Medicine	8,069	173	2.1	7,700	95.4	175	2.2	21	0.3
Full-Time	8,013	168	2.1	7,649	95.5	175	2.2	21	0.3
Part-Time	56	5	8.9	51	91.1	0	0.0	0	0.0
Law	119,663	5,730	4.8	107,124	89.5	6,074	5.1	735	0.6
Full-Time	101,675	4,784	4.7	90,940	89.4	5,280	5.2	671	0.7
Part Time	17,988	946	5.3	16,184	90.0	794	4.4	64	0.4
All Others	55,522	1,940	3.5	50,202	90.4	2,133	3.8	1,258	2.3
Full-Time	47,763	1,639	3.4	43,130	90.3	1,818	3.8	1,176	2.5
Part-Time	7,759	301	3.9	7,072	91.1	304	3.9	82	1.1

Source - Committee staff analysis, ED/OCR, unpublished data, Fall, 1980.

Note Does not include unclassified students.

TABLE D. TOTAL GRADUATE AND FIRST - PROFESSIONAL ENROLLMENT IN HBC'S, BY RACIAL/ETHNIC GROUP AND U.S. CITIZENSHIP STATUS: FALL, 1980

Historically Black Colleges	Graduate (34 Institutions)					First-Professional (11 Institutions)				
	Total	Black	White	Other Minority	Non-Resident Alien	Total	Black	White	Other Minority	Non-Resident Alien
Total, All HBC'S	16,542	11,300	2,958	389	1,895	3,699	2,883	503	135	178
Alabama A&M	845	256	376	92	121					
Alabama State	269	262	4	1	2					
Alcorn State	157	156	1	0	0					
Atlanta University	1,371	1,265	28	71	7					
Bowie State	645	234	382	8	21					
Cheyney State	144	78	59	1	6					
Coppin State	168	133	22	4	9					
Fayetteville State	145	51	92	2	0					
Fisk	33	29	3	0	1					
Florida A&M	112	81	29	2	0	16	14	2	0	0
Fort Valley State	75	63	12	0	0					
Grambling	175	170	3	1	1					
Hampton Institute	160	128	26	5	1					
Howard	2,382	1,346	82	66	888	1,493	1,157	182	54	100
Inter. Theol. Center	-	-	-	-	-	273	237	13	0	23
Jackson State	1,081	895	83	26	77					
Kentucky State	140	34	89	2	15					
Lincoln (PA)	261	173	72	16	0					
Meharry Medical College	48	36	1	1	10	736	641	51	19	25
Miles	-	-	-	-	-	78	73	5	0	0
Mississippi Valley State	151	143	8	0	0					
Morehouse	-	-	-	-	-	55	42	8	4	1
Morgan State	409	260	80	3	66					
Norfolk State	367	243	110	2	12					
North Carolina A&T	506	328	146	0	32					
North Carolina Central	673	506	145	8	14	238	131	102	3	2
Prairie View A&M	1,997	1,552	392	53	0					
Savannah State	48	11	37	0	0					
Selma University	-	-	-	-	-	25	25	0	0	0
South Carolina State	510	435	75	0	0					
Southern - Baton Rouge	816	777	19	1	19	224	157	63	1	3
Tennessee State	709	262	383	2	62					
Texas Southern	1,175	690	31	10	444	346	279	10	[illegible]	13
Tuskegee Institute	265	189	0	1	75	215	127	67	10	11
University of MD - Eastern Shore	43	18	25	0	0					
Virginia State	410	292	96	11	11					
Virginia Union	87	83	4	0	0					
Xavier (LA)	165	121	43	0	1					

Source - Committee staff analysis, ED/OCR unpublished data, Fall 1980